ABSTRACT

This five-chapter dissertation studies *Si-Fu* poems (思妇诗) taken from folk songs of the Southern-Dynasties. *Si-Fu* poems appeared as early as 600 B.C. in the “Anthology of Classical Poems” (诗经), and emerged as one of the main subgenres in Chinese Classical lyric literature. Nevertheless, studies on the sentimental aesthetic value of *Si-Fu* poems have not emerged as a major topic of interest. Hence, the aim of this thesis is to provide an exploratory insight into this subgenre in the Southern-Dynasties.

The major work of this thesis covers the study of the language used in *Si-Fu* poems and the discussion of its style. Their language is characteristically plain and simple in form. The elegant image of *Si-Fu* and the objects of nature forms the unique tenderness style. Moreover, from the *Si-Fu* poems we clearly see the great importance that Si-Fu place on love. This is the main emphasis of *Si-Fu* poems.

Lastly, this work stresses the significant influence of poems in the work of the later dynasties, especially the *Si-Fu* poems in the Tang Dynasty and the Wan-Yue Ci (婉约词) in the Song Dynasty.